Learning Log #3

In class:

I thought that this class was really interesting. I have taken classes where we have explored Gardner’s Multiple Intelligences, but I found it even more interesting when we compared ourselves to the rest of our classmates. The diversity of intelligences and learning styles, just within our small class, really opened my eyes as to how diverse our students are. Knowing and understanding the differences among your students can really make a huge difference in how you teach and the ways in which you relay information to them. I think that a lot of teachers teach to their students in the “form” in which themselves learn, which is not as beneficial as teaching their students within the context of a variety of intelligences. The more access that a student has to a variety of learning styles and multiple intelligences means the more likely they are to be successful in any educational endeavor. I also think that the more a student practices their weaker intelligences, the stronger they will become over time, and in turn making them a stronger more independent learner.

Readings:

All too often, general and special educators have very differing views on educating students with disabilities. Unfortunately, I have seen the great disconnect that there can be between special and general education. Students are in becoming more and more diverse and I think that it is incredibly important for a higher level of collaboration to occur. I work in a private special education high school, where our students receive a variety of related services including mental health, speech, OT, psychologists, psychiatrists, PT, behavioral specialists, AT, etc. Because of the complexity of our population, it is incredibly important that the team (meaning everyone directly or indirectly involved with the student) be on the same page. We have also recently been required to start taking trainings concerning different technology such as Word Q, Read and Write Out Loud, World Book, etc. which has been a great experience because it inevitably opens up new doors for our students. Being able to work and collaborate with both the librarians as well as our AT team has really become incredibly beneficial to myself and teaching assistant as well as my students.

I found GLOBE Tech to be really useful and would love to use this model within my classroom. In the first step, I found TARGET to provide a realistic method in helping students to “Get Ready and Focused” on learning. TARGET helps to facilitate team learning which is really important in building relationships as well as being focused, prepared, and understanding their individual and team objectives. Making sure that the students are timed during these activities is essential so that it enables an efficient pace throughout the instructional responsibilities. In fact TeachTime is a great “stop watch” to keep students focused on their work while at the same time integrating technology into the classroom.

In step 2, I liked the idea to utilize *Inspiration* in order to help summarize responses from cooperative learning groups. We also frequently use *United Streaming* within the classroom as it contains thousands of topics and content areas helping to enhance classroom instruction. I have also used online and offline activities in conjunction with *United Streaming*. For example, my students read the story of John Henry and then we watched the video and then compared the similarities and differences between the two.

In step 3, I found the Apple’s *iLife* to be really interesting and would love to find out how students could apply these to create different presentations. Being able to utilize images, text, video, sound, animation, etc. to create an interactive presentation would not only be a lot more fun for students, but it would also incorporate a variety of the multiple intelligences and learning styles that may not be as frequently tapped into.

Overall, I thought that this method of instruction was really useful. It encompasses multiple modes of presentation, increases student engagement, increasing student acquisition of knowledge, and provides multiple modes of expression.